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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/609,046	06/27/2003	Mustafa Pinarbasi		3478

7590
Hoyt & Knight
PO Box 1320
Pioneer, CA 95666

10/28/2005

EXAMINER

TUGBANG, ANTHONY D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3729

DATE MAILED: 10/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Spr

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/609,046

Applicant(s)

PINARBASI, MUSTAFA

Examiner

A. Dexter Tugbang

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 August 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 2-5 and 8-17 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 6 and 7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/3/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election of the invention of Species A, Claims 6 and 7, in the reply filed on August 15, 2005 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election *without traverse* (MPEP § 818.03(a)).
2. Claims 2-5 and 8-17 have been withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on August 15, 2005.

Priority

3. The specification should include the status of the parent application. The examiner suggests amending the specification after "11/30/2000" (line 7, page 1) to include: --now U. S. Patent 6,813,121--.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pinarbasi 5,883,764, referred to hereinafter as Pinarbasi'764, in view of Dates et al 3,484,284.

Pinarbasi'764 discloses a method of fabricating a transducer comprising: forming a magnetic sensor which is a spin valve (see Fig. 4); forming first and second leads 440, 445 for the sensor by the following steps: fabricating first and second thin film tantalum pads 446 in electrical contact with the magnetic sensor at first and second locations, the first and second locations being noncontiguous; fabricating thin film chromium pads 447 on the first and second tantalum pads; and fabricating thin film tantalum 448 pads on the thin film chromium pads.

Regarding Claim(s) 6, Pinarbasi'764 further teaches that the first and second locations are on opposing areas of an upper surface (surface area of free layer 410) of the magnetic sensor and where the first and second tantalum pads are in physical contact with the upper surface of the magnetic sensor (see Fig. 4).

Regarding Claim(s) 7, Pinarbasi'764 further teaches forming first and second hard bias structures 430, 435 disposed on opposing sides of the sensor and where the first and second leads are respectively overlaid on the first and second hard bias structures and the first and second leads extend onto an upper surface (top surfaces of 430, 435) of the magnetic sensor and are in physical contact with the upper surface of the magnetic sensor.

In summary above, Pinarbasi'764 teaches substantially all of the limitations of the claimed invention except that the material of the pads formed on the thin film chromium pads is "rhodium".

Dates teaches that leads can be formed of a conductive material, or electroconductive material, with alternative materials of rhodium or tantalum (see col. 4, lines 2-10) for the advantages of providing high power capacity and low contact resistance (see col. 3, lines 2-8).

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It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have substituted the rhodium material of Dates for the tantalum material formed by the tantalum pads on the thin film chromium pads of Pinarbasi'764, to advantageously provide an alternative conductive material and to provide high power capacity and low contact resistance for the spin valve.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

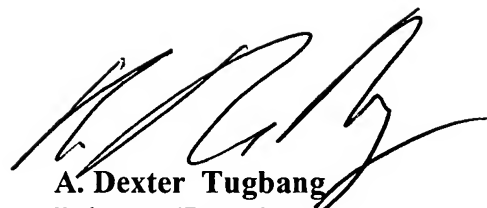
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to A. Dexter Tugbang whose telephone number is 571-272-4570. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo can be reached on 571-272-4690. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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A. Dexter Tugbang
Primary Examiner
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October 25, 2005